UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/484
28 September 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 117

IMPROVING THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Note verbale dated 26 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit to him the statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Nordic countries at their meeting in New York on 25 September 1995 on the financial situation of the United Nations.

It would be appreciated if the Secretary-General would bring the enclosed statement to the attention of the delegations attending the fiftieth session of the General Assembly and distribute the text as an official document of the Assembly, under agenda item 117.

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ANNEX

Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Nordic countries at their meeting in New York on 25 September 1995 on the financial situation of the United Nations

The Governments of the Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden - are deeply concerned about the financial situation of the United Nations. The present financial crisis seriously threatens multilateralism and the ability of the world Organization to respond to urgent demands to prevent and contain conflicts, to promote development and to alleviate suffering. A sound financial basis is necessary to ensure the success of the ongoing efforts to reform and rationalize the work of the Organization. It is unacceptable, and particularly deplorable at the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, that the central instrument for international cooperation on vital global issues is practically bankrupt, owing to the failure of Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions.

Unilateral withholding of assessed United Nations contributions is a clear violation of the obligations of Member States. On behalf of their Governments, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Nordic countries call on all Member States to fulfil their financial obligations towards the United Nations by immediately paying all outstanding contributions.